

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action mailed March 21, 2007, claims 3-10 and 12-16 were rejected. Claims 3-10, 12 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,374,259 to Celik in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,658,454 to Delany et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,003,546 to Cheah.

Claim 3 has been amended to specify "wherein the user is a registered user and the contact information is provided to contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users." In a similar vein, prior claim 8, now canceled, specified "the method of claim 4 wherein the user is a registered user and e-mails are sent to contacts of the user who are not registered users."

The Office action recognizes that Celik does not explicitly disclose "forming a distribution list of the contacts of the user using the information regarding contacts of the user." Office action, p. 4. The Office action also recognizes that Celik and Delany et al. do not explicitly disclose "providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user." Office action, p. 5.

The Office action, however, points to Cheah for teaching "providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user on the distribution list automatically in response to receiving updated contact information of the user." Office action, p. 5. In doing so the Office action points to over 29 columns of text in Cheah. Importantly, the Office action also points to a specific portion of Cheah, namely Cheah at col. 2, lines 25-31, for stating "hence, should the contact information change after its distribution to certain registered users, then the updated contact information is able to be distributed to the certain registered users in an automated manner." Office action, p. 5. (emphasis added). Claim 3 now specifies that the contact information is provided to contacts of the user on the distribution list who are not registered users.

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In rejecting claims 6-8 (which are not treated separately by the Office action), the Office action points to a number of locations in Celik, Delany et al. and Cheah for disclosing wherein the user is a registered user and e-mails are sent to contacts of the user who are not registered users. As previously indicated, in the context of claim 3, neither Celik nor Delany et al. disclose providing the contact information regarding the user to at least some of the contacts of the user in the distribution list, and therefore cannot disclose further details of doing so. With respect to Cheah, the Office action points again to the over 29 columns of text in Cheah. A review of the pertinent portions of Cheah, which admittedly are extremely lengthy, indicate that Cheah discloses, as recognized on p. 5 of the Office action, that the updated contact information is distributed to registered users in an automated manner.

Accordingly, the prior rejection of claim 8 is improper and claim 3 as amended is allowable: In addition, claims 4-7, 9-10, and 12-14, dependent ultimately on claim 3, are also allowable.

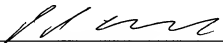
Claim 15, as amended, specifies a server configured to "provide contact information of a specific user to at least some of the users, who are not registered users, indicated in contact list for the specific user automatically when the contact information for the specific user changes."

In view of the discussion of claim 3, claim 15 is also allowable, as is dependent claim 16.

Accordingly allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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